Steps to eradicate poverty

1609. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govemment are taking any steps to eradicate poverty and to import dignity due to the downtrodden in the country;

(b) whether any steps have been taken for providing employment and alleviating the lot of rural population by implementing Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme effectively; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL) : (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of schemes like the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and the Swarnjayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY) for improvement of quality of life of the rural people and to alleviate poverty. The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, launched in 200 identified districts in the country, provides for enhancement of livelihood security of rural households by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in every financial year to every household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

Non-payment of promised wages to workers

1610. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received large number of complaints that workers were receiving their wages around Rs. 15,instead of promised Rs. 60, per day under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS), in most parts of the country;

(b) if so, Government's response and reaction thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for providing workers the promised wages directly under the NREG scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) In accordance with Section 6(1) of National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, Central Government may, by notification, specify the wage rate for the purposes of the Act provided that the wage rate by such notification shall not be at a rate less than Rs. 60/- per day. The Central Government has, however, not fixed any wage rate under the Act so far. Section 6(2) of the Act, further povides that until such time a wage rate is fixed by the Central Government in respect of any area in a State, the minimum wages fixed by the State Government under Section 3 of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 for agricultural labour shall be considered as the wage rate applicable to that area. All State Governments are paying wages to the workers under the Act in accordance with the wages fixed by them in accordance with the provisions of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. State Governments have, however, been asked to undertake comprehensive work, time and motion studies for evolving norms for measurement of work and schedule of rates for the purposes of the Act.